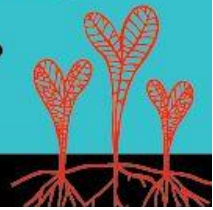




NOURISHING THE ROOTS, TENDING THE GARDEN.

A note from Julie Bragdon, Head of School



Dear Parents,

Today we received confirmation that the MSD parent being tested for COVID-19 has tested positive. This parent has students in the Primary and Lower Elementary programs. Due to the contact students have with each other between classrooms in these program levels, the specific classrooms the students are in is considered to be irrelevant by the Denver Health Department. Students have contact on playgrounds, at carline, and in the Arts and Athletics Center. While in different program levels, Upper Elementary and Middle School students could have indirect contact through shared space as well. Toddler students would not have had any contact as they do not share common space with the other program levels.

A few important notes:

- The attending doctor has advised that the current thinking is that it is possible to transmit (“shed”) the virus two days before becoming symptomatic (headache and/or feeling "crummy" in this case) but beyond this two-day window, the risk is very low. The MSD parent was not on campus in the two days prior to becoming symptomatic.
- The MSD students and spouse of the parent continue to be asymptomatic. They have not been at school since the parent became symptomatic and self-quarantined. They are beyond the possible two-day shedding window as well.
- The Denver Health Department advised us today that the risk to our population from this contact is low to no risk. It is important to remember health officials expect there will be more cases so while this particular contact presents low to no risk, there are likely other unconfirmed cases in and around our community.

As I said in my email on Thursday, we are continuing to engage in open and regular communication with the Colorado Department of Public Health. We will revisit the duration of our closure if new recommendations are made, or if new information presents. I want to emphasize that during this closure, all of you — students and parents — have a responsibility. As public health officials have emphasized, school closures will not be effective unless they are accompanied by social distancing strategies. We suggest that you restrict your social interactions during this period.

If our students are out and about, spending time with various friend groups, the virus is more likely to continue its spread in Denver and across the globe.

For a reminder of the additional ways you can partner with us, please see my email sent on Thursday and archived on the COVID-19 Resource Board on our MSD Blackbaud site.

A friend sent along this article, [This Can Be Our Finest Hour](#), and it made me feel better in the midst of this new world we find ourselves in. The author is a licensed psychologist and a trauma survivor who has worked for twenty-five years with the complex issues of trauma, integration, and behavior change across every level, from individuals to groups to large systems and countries. In her final paragraph, she writes:

“Imagine if we could make our response to this crisis our finest hour. Imagine if a year or two from now we looked back on this and told the stories of how we came together as a team in our community, in our state, in our nation and across the world. Your contribution to the finest hour may seem small, invisible, inconsequential—but every small act of ‘not doing’ what you were going to do, and ‘doing’ an act of kindness or support will add up exponentially.”

Thank you for your resilience and care as we navigate through this challenge together. Doing good in the world is part of our MSD mission and is at the heart of what we hope to do in big and small ways. Please join me in wishing our effected family our collective well wishes for a speedy recovery and, to one another, good health.

I am reachable by email if you have any questions or concerns. And please remember to keep me posted with any developing health concerns or potential travel plans.

Virtual elbow bump
Julie

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